

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**1-7. (Cancelled)**

**8. (Currently amended)** A method for detecting a nucleic acid comprising:

contacting a probe with a nucleic acid sample, wherein the probe comprises a nucleic acid and further comprises a labeling substance that releases energy and an energy-absorbing substance that absorbs the energy released from the labeling substance, wherein the labeling substance is positioned on the nucleic acid 0 to 1 nucleotides apart from the energy-absorbing substance, and when the probe hybridizes with a target nucleic acid in the nucleic acid sample and forms a hybridized double-stranded nucleic acid, the energy-absorbing substance interacts with the double-stranded nucleic acid and no longer absorbs the energy released from the labeling substance thereby resulting in ~~no~~ reduced quenching of the labeling substance, and measuring energy released from the labeling substance, wherein the released energy indicates detection of the target nucleic acid.

**9. (Original)** The method according to claim 8, wherein the presence of the energy released from the labeling substance indicates the hybridization of the probe with the target nucleic acid.

**10. (Cancelled)**

**11. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 8, wherein the energy is photo energy.

**12. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 8, wherein the labeling substance is selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent substance, a delayed fluorescent substance, and a chemiluminescent substance.

**13. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 8, wherein the energy-absorbing substance is an intercalator.

**14. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the intercalator is selected from the group consisting of acridine, anthracene, pyrene, and derivatives thereof.

**15. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 8, wherein the labeling substance is fluorescein, and the energy-absorbing substance is selected from the group consisting of pyrene, coumarin, and acridine.

**16. (Previously presented)** The method according to claim 8, wherein the probe is immobilized on a solid phase carrier for detecting a nucleic acid.